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JUL 30 2008

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 7-13, in the following manner:

~~The present invention~~ This disclosure generally relates to threshold value matrixes, image processing apparatuses, image forming apparatuses and printer drivers, and more particularly to a threshold value matrix which is used for a halftone processing, an image processing apparatus, an image forming apparatus and a printer driver which use such a threshold value matrix.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 10, line 3 through page 11, line 4, in the following manner:

~~DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION~~ SUMMARY

~~Accordingly, it is a general object of the present invention to provide~~ In an aspect of this disclosure, a novel and useful threshold value matrix, image processing apparatus, image forming apparatus and printer driver, ~~in which the problems described above are eliminated~~ provided.

~~Another and more specific object of the present invention is to provide~~ In an aspect of this disclosure, a threshold value matrix, an image processing apparatus, an image forming apparatus and a printer driver are provided, which can obtain a satisfactory picture quality for a low-resolution recording and/or a high-speed recording.

~~Still another object of the present invention is to provide~~ In an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, a threshold value matrix [[used]] is provided for converting a multi-level image data into a plural-level image data which represents a dot pattern by a smaller number of gradation levels than the multi-level image data, comprising threshold values used for making a dot representation solely by a dot pattern while maintaining an identical keytone for all halftone levels. According to the above-mentioned threshold value matrix ~~of the present invention,~~ the threshold values enable the dot representation solely by a dot pattern while constantly maintaining an identical keytone for all halftone levels. For this reason, it is possible

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to improve the picture quality in the low-resolution recording mode and the high-speed recording mode which do not carry out a dot gravitational center position control or a gradation representation of each pixel by a representation close to a multi-level representation.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 11, line 22 through page 13, line 23, in the following manner:

A further object of the present invention is to provide In another exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, an image processing apparatus is provided comprising a processing section carrying out a plural-level process with respect to a multi-level image data to output a plural-level image data which represents a dot pattern by a smaller number of gradation levels than the multi-level image data by use of a threshold value matrix; and a holding section holding said threshold value matrix which includes threshold values which are used for making a dot representation solely by a dot pattern while maintaining an identical keytone for all halftone levels. According to ~~[[the]]~~ such an image processing apparatus ~~of the present invention~~, it is possible to improve the picture quality in the low-resolution recording mode and the high-speed recording mode by use of the threshold value matrix.

~~Another object of the present invention is to provide~~ In another exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, a printer driver, to be implemented in a computer, is provided for supplying an output image data to an image forming apparatus which forms an image from a plurality of dots, comprising a processing section carrying out a plural-level process with respect to a multi-level image data to output, as the output image data, a plural-level image data which represents a dot pattern by a smaller number of gradation levels than the multi-level image data by use of a threshold value matrix; and a table storing said threshold value matrix which includes threshold values which are used for making a dot representation solely by a dot pattern while maintaining an identical keytone for all halftone levels. According to ~~[[the]]~~ such a printer engine ~~of the present invention~~, it is possible to improve the picture quality in the low-resolution recording mode and the high-speed recording mode by use of the

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threshold value matrix.

~~Still another object of the present invention is to provide~~ In another exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, an image forming apparatus which forms an image on a recording medium from a plurality of dots is provided, comprising a processing section carrying out a plural-level process with respect to a multi-level image data to output a plural-level image data which represents a dot pattern by a smaller number of gradation levels than the multi-level image data by use of a threshold value matrix; a table storing said threshold value matrix which includes threshold values which are used for making a dot representation solely by a dot pattern while maintaining an identical keytone for all halftone levels; and an imaging section forming the image on the recording medium based on the plural-level image data. According to ~~[[the]]~~ such an image forming apparatus ~~of the present invention,~~ it is possible to improve the picture quality in the low-resolution recording mode and the high-speed recording mode by use of the threshold value matrix.

Other ~~objects~~ aspects and further features of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.